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GREITENS ADMITS PAST AFFAIR

Chief executive outlines agenda in State of the State

BY KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • Gov. Eric Greitens outlined a limited agenda Wednesday, calling on lawmakers to make Missouri a friendlier state to foster children, veterans and businesses.

In his second State of the State speech, the Republican chief executive highlighted the state's low unemployment rate of 3.4 percent and legislation that helped bring a steel manufacturing facility to Sedalia.

"We are bringing good quality jobs back to Missouri," Greitens said in the 30-minute address.

Greitens said he was pushing for 20 legislative initiatives that are designed to help children, including one that would help foster children get access to bank accounts.

"Tonight, I want to ask the members of this body to do something straightforward: Put politics on hold. Set any differences you may have with one another, or with me, to the side. These are children. These are kids," Greitens said.

He stressed his administration's emphasis on removing regulations in an attempt to make it easier to start businesses and get jobs. He said efforts underway since his first day in office had resulted in officials' identifying 33,000 regulatory requirements that should be stricken from the books.

"Regulations like these that waste money, waste time, are outdated and irrelevant, had been building up for too long," Greitens said.

And the governor, a former Navy SEAL, said he wanted a change in law allowing military spouses who have licenses to

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CHRISTIAN GOODEN • cgooden@post-dispatch.com
Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens delivers his annual State of the State address on Wednesday to a joint session of the Legislature in Jefferson City.

His attorney denies woman's blackmail claim

BY KEVIN McDERMOTT, JACK SUNTRUP AND CELESTE BOTT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens and his wife, Sheena Greitens, issued an extraordinary statement late Wednesday acknowledging that he had an extramarital affair in the past and that the couple "has dealt with this together honestly and privately."

The statement came as a St. Louis television station aired a segment alleging that, during that affair, Greitens took a compromising photograph of the woman and threatened to publicize it if she exposed him. The statement from Greitens and his wife didn't address that part of the allegation.

Greitens' attorney, James F. Bennett, issued a statement denying the blackmail allegation.

"There was no blackmail, and that claim is false," Bennett said. "This personal matter has been addressed by the Governor and Mrs. Greitens privately years ago when it happened. The outrageous claims of improper conduct regarding these almost three-year-ago events are false."

The bizarre turn of events came just hours after Greitens delivered his second State of the State speech in Jefferson City.

KMOV (Channel 4), in its report, quoted the former husband of the woman who allegedly had the affair with Greitens. The station did not quote the woman in its story, nor did it name the woman or her husband.

The station played portions of an audio recording that the then-husband says he

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HANLEY HILLS • 1948–?

Residents consider disincorporation push

Several streets are crumbling, and the $1.5 million cost to fix them is equal to two years of the city's entire budget

BY JEREMY KOHLER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ROBERT COHEN • rcohen@post-dispatch.com
Bruce Lynn, a 30-year resident of Vinita Drive in Hanley Hills, signs a petition to help put a disincorporation vote on the village ballot as Thomas Rusan and Lynn's dog look on Wednesday.

HANLEY HILLS • This north St. Louis County community of about 2,000 people is the latest municipality facing a push to disincorporate, with a handful of residents saying they are fed up with dysfunction and deterioration.

Those residents say problems abound. Two members of this village's board of trustees have been removed from office in the past year because they had felony convictions and could not legally serve.

Several streets are crumbling, and the $1.5 million cost to fix them is equal to two years of the city's entire budget.

The housing stock – typically two-bedroom bungalows built in the 1940s and '50s – is deteriorating and rapidly changing from owner-occupied homes to rental units. A resident recently complained that a vacant house was being used for drug deals. Residents are moving in and out so fast it's hard to keep track of neighbors.

Thomas Rusan, 61, and his wife, Kim Rusan, 59, say Hanley Hills is barely recognizable as the stable bedroom community they moved to 30 years ago. And they don't think the village government

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You may still be able to 'Maull it!'

Sale of St. Louis company aims to keep sauce flowing

BY JOE HOLLEMAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

"Don't baste your barbecue, Maull it!" stands as one of the best-known local ad slogans, touting a barbecue sauce that has been on St. Louis pantry shelves and patio tables for 90 years.

But now, the Louis Maull Co. is on the selling block.

Though it would bring the company's long history of family ownership to an end, it's good news for barbecue lovers who feared the brand might disappear amid recent questions about the company's future.

"The Louis Maull Company is in negotiations for the sale of the Maull's BBQ sauce brand," vice president Stephen Maull said in an email Wednes-

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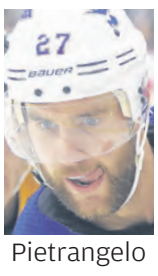

Pietrangelo

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